

A Bill to Ban All Social Media for Children Under the Age of 16

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. Children under the age of 16 are prohibited from creating, using, or accessing social media platforms within the United States, except for the following limited circumstances:

- A. Educational purposes explicitly verified by a school or educational institution.
- B. Verified health-related needs as determined by a licensed healthcare provider.

SECTION 2. The purpose of this Act is to protect children's mental and emotional well-being by addressing the following concerns:

- A. Social media platforms expose children to harmful content, including cyberbullying, inappropriate material, and online predators.
- B. Excessive screen time associated with social media use negatively affects cognitive, emotional, and social development.
- C. Children under 16 are particularly vulnerable to these risks due to their developing cognitive and emotional maturity.

SECTION 3. To ensure compliance and enforcement:

- A. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) shall oversee the implementation and enforcement of this legislation.
- B. Social media platforms shall implement robust age-verification systems to prevent users under the age of 16 from creating accounts or accessing their services.
- C. Platforms found in violation of this Act will face penalties, including: 1. Fines of up to \$10,000 per violation. 2. Additional penalties as determined by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).

SECTION 4. This legislation shall take effect on January 1, 2026. All laws or parts of laws in conflict with this Act are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Pace High School.